

CLAIMS

- [1] A steam cooking apparatus comprising:
- (a) a heating chamber in which food is placed;
 - (b) a steam generating device;
 - (c) an upper jet hole that is provided in a ceiling part of the heating chamber and through which steam supplied from the steam generating device is jetted toward the food placed in the heating chamber; and
 - (d) a side jet hole that is provided in a lower part of a side wall of the heating chamber at one or both sides thereof and through which steam supplied from the steam generating device is jetted toward the food.
- [2] The steam cooking apparatus of claim 1,
- wherein the food is supported in a state floating above a floor surface of the heating chamber by supporting means, and, through the side jet hole, steam is blown toward under the food.
- [3] The steam cooking apparatus of claim 2,
- wherein the side jet hole is so positioned and/or directed that the steam jetted out from each side meets under the food.
- [4] The steam cooking apparatus of one of claims 1 to 3,
- wherein steam generated by the steam generating device is introduced into a sub-cavity provided adjacent to the heating chamber, the steam is then heated inside the sub-cavity by heating means, and the so heated steam is then distributed between the upper jet hole and the side jet hole.
- [5] The steam cooking apparatus of claim 4,
- wherein the steam heated inside the sub-cavity is guided to the side jet hole

through a duct formed of a pipe.

- [6] The steam cooking apparatus of claim 4,
 wherein the sub-cavity is provided in the ceiling part of the heating chamber.
- [7] The steam cooking apparatus of claim 6,
 wherein the upper jet hole is provided in a floor panel of the sub-cavity.
- [8] The steam cooking apparatus of claim 1,
 wherein a total area of the side jet hole is larger than a total area of the upper
jet hole.